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Letter dated 22 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to attach herewith the decisions of the extraordinary session of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan, held in Addis Ababa on 5 March 2018 (see annex I), as well as the outcomes of the meeting (see annex II).

It is worth mentioning that the Security Council has consistently called for the reinvigoration of the organs and bodies established by the two countries to enhance bilateral relations and strengthen joint border control, chiefly, the Joint Political and Security Mechanism.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Omer Dahab Fadl **Mohamed**
Permanent Representative

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Annex I to the letter dated 22 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Decisions of the extraordinary session of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism

1. An extraordinary session of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism of the Sudan and South Sudan was convened in Addis Ababa by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel. The meeting was chaired by President Abdulsalami A. Abubakar on behalf of the Panel. The delegation of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan was led by General Kuol Manyang, Minister of Defence, while the delegation of the Government of the Sudan was led by General Ali Mohammed Salim, Minister of Defence. In attendance were: General Tesfay Gidey Hailemichael, Force Commander of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA); Brigadier General Gebrekidan Yebiyo, Chief of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism; and Nicholas Haysom, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan.

2. In his opening remarks, Mr. Manyang highlighted the substantive progress made since the previous meeting of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism. The Sudan People's Liberation Army had completed its redeployment from areas where it had not already done so. He highlighted two achievements: the convening of the Joint Security Committee in Juba, and the activation of the ad doc committee on the 14 Mile Area, which had visited Abyei, Gok Machar and Safaha from 26 to 28 February 2018.

3. In addition, the Joint Technical Border Corridor Committee had met in Khartoum and made preparations for the official opening of the four crossing corridors in phase 1. The opening of the corridors, which should be witnessed by the African Union, would further cement the already improving relations and would represent a powerful symbol of the restoration of economic activity and normalcy between the two States.

4. Mr. Manyang also noted the improvement in communication and coordination between UNISFA and the parties and between the chiefs of defence of both sides on the issue of the redeployment of forces from the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone. South Sudan was committed to joint verification of redeployments. South Sudan had authorized the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism to monitor the border through air and ground patrols. South Sudan did not object to the centreline, as it is not a boundary; it had signed the African Union High-level Implementation Panel coordinates and would respect that agreement and allow the definition of the centreline in accordance with those coordinates.

5. Mr. Manyang reiterated that the Sudan and South Sudan had long and close historical ties that compelled them to normalize and deepen their relations in the interests of the peoples of their two countries, without the need for outside compulsion.

6. On behalf of the Government of the Sudan, General Ali Mohammed Salim stated that he fully endorsed the remarks of Mr. Manyang. The Joint Security Committee meeting of 27 February 2018 had indeed been very successful; the decisions of that meeting should be endorsed and adopted as Joint Political and Security Mechanism decisions to ensure their implementation and harmonization.

7. General Ali Mohammed Salim reaffirmed that his Government had implemented all decisions that were within its competence and would redeploy from the remaining

locations of Kahraba and El Shaheed Elfadil in the next few days. The Government of the Sudan welcomed UNISFA verification by ground and air.

8. The Government of the Sudan proposed that, to ensure that progress remains on track, there should be a regular review of the implementation status of the decisions of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism and the Joint Security Committee. He called on the United Nations, the African Union and the international community, particularly UNISFA and the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, to continue to support the fulfilment of their respective mandates.

9. While the Government of the Sudan recognized that there might be unknown forces north of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone and in Sudan's territory, it did not accept their presence. If no other practical steps were taken to remove these forces, the Government of the Sudan would be left with no choice but to engage them to leave Sudanese territory.

10. Mr. Salim also reiterated the deep historical ties between the peoples of the Sudan and South Sudan, which continued to this day, as manifested in the free interactions and movements of people.

11. The meeting received a briefing from the Force Commander of UNISFA on the developments since the previous meeting, on 4 February 2018. In relation to the team site in Safaha/Kiir Adiem, UNISFA had decided to retain the sector headquarters as the team site until both parties had resolved the outstanding issues. With regard to Teshwin, the team site had not yet been established at its intended location and has temporarily been located towards the northern side of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone. In Sumayh/Majak, the establishment of the site will be undertaken once the African Union Border Programme Technical Team has identified the outer limits of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone. As for the Abu Qussa/Wunkur team site, because the road from Kadugli passes through rebel-held areas, it is unsafe to activate the site at this time.

12. Concerning the sensitization of communities and commanders, there was still a need for greater sensitization of communities. With regard to ground patrols, these have been held up, pending the participation of the South Sudan national monitors. The Force Commander requested the meeting to grant unrestricted clearance for ground monitoring and verification patrols as well as helicopter landings within the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone. He also reported on the activation of the ad hoc committee on the 14 Mile Area.

13. At the end of the briefing given by General Tesfay Gidey Hailemichael, the UNISFA Force Commander, the parties acknowledged his efforts with appreciation and wished him well in his next endeavours.

The meeting decided as follows:

1. Renewed commitment to the decisions of 4 February 2018

1.1. Both parties reiterated their earlier commitments made during the extraordinary meeting of 4 February 2018, particularly their commitment to redeploy their forces outside the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone and to ensure full freedom of movement to UNISFA ground and aerial monitoring and verification patrols, including the unrestricted and timely granting of approvals for sorties and landings in the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone.

1.2. The meeting resolved that UNISFA should henceforth have standing clearance for all ground monitoring and verification patrols as well as helicopter landings within the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone.

1.3. The meeting accepts the Sudan's undertaking to complete redeployment from the locations of Kahraba and El Shaheed Elfadil within 10 days of the completion of this meeting.

1.4. The Joint Political and Security Mechanism shall receive regular reports on the status of the implementation of its decisions, as well as the decisions of the Joint Security Committee at Joint Political and Security Mechanism meetings.

2. Sensitization efforts

2.1. The parties will intensify their unilateral and joint efforts to sensitize the local population, as well as local commanders and administrators, concerning the establishment of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone.

2.2. The sensitization will focus on the opening of crossing corridors; related activities of UNISFA, the United Nations Mine Action Service and the African Union Border Programme; and ground and aerial patrols of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism.

2.3. Priority should be given in the coming days to sensitization regarding the opening of phase 1 corridors.

2.4. The meeting endorses South Sudan's aim to complete its initial sensitization efforts within two weeks of the meeting and the commitment of the Sudan to continue with unilateral sensitization on its side of the border.

2.5. The parties agree to set up joint sensitization teams to build upon the unilateral sensitization efforts by each party.

3. Establishment of team sites

3.1. Each party shall give clear instructions to its forces and officials, particularly its national monitors, regarding the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, in order to ensure full and consistent participation in, and cooperation with, the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, so that the establishment of the team sites in Safaha/Kiir Adiem and Teshwin/Panakuac can be completed.

3.2. The instructions should be given in writing with copies sent to the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and the African Union High-level Implementation Panel.

3.3. The meeting tasks the Joint Technical Committee, headed by the Joint Security Committee Co-Chairs, to act with urgency, as the main forum for problem-solving in relation to any differences and difficulties regarding the establishment and smooth functioning of all team sites, beginning with Safaha/Kiir Adiem and Teshwin/Panakuac. The Joint Security Committee should report to the Joint Political and Security Mechanism on its progress regarding this task.

3.4. The team sites to be established within two weeks.

3.5. Given the security challenges associated with Abu Qussa/Wunkur, an alternative location will be considered at the next meeting of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism.

4. Opening of crossing corridors

4.1. From 7 to 9 March 2018, the African Union Border Programme shall conduct a planning workshop for relevant stakeholders in Khartoum on the marking of the crossing points along the first four corridors.

4.2. Immediately following the completion of the workshop, the African Union Border Programme Technical Team and the relevant technical teams shall proceed to

the designated sites to mark the crossing points. The exercise shall be completed by 20 March 2018.

4.3. Upon completion of the marking exercise, the Joint Technical Border Corridors Committee shall take the lead in establishing the necessary facilities and deployment of personnel at the crossing points.

4.4. In addition to the police forces of the two States, UNISFA will also maintain a presence at the crossing points, for the purposes of verification.

4.5. The meeting emphasizes that the identification of the crossing corridors does not affect the population and is not intended to demarcate territory or to result in any relocation of persons.

5. The Joint Security Committee:

5.1. Welcomes the successful convening of the Joint Security Committee meeting in Juba on 27 February 2018 and endorses the important decisions of the Committee that are intended, inter alia, to facilitate coordination in the operationalization of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone and the opening of crossing corridors. The decisions are attached hereto.

5.2. Welcomes, in particular, the decision to open direct hotline communications between the Joint Security Committee Co-Chairs and calls for it to be operationalized immediately.

6. The ad hoc committee on the 14 Mile Area:

6.1. Welcomes the successful convening of its meeting on 27 February 2018, which proposed draft terms of reference for its work.

6.2. Adopts the draft terms of reference, which should now guide the work of the ad hoc committee.

7. Border demarcation discussion

7.1. The meeting notes that the African Union Border Programme intends to convene the Joint Border Commission and the Joint Demarcation Committee in April 2018 to discuss the demarcation of the agreed sections of the boundary. It notes that the meeting could not be convened in March 2018 because the technical experts of the African Union Border Programme are currently involved with issues of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone and Border Crossing Corridors.

8. Renewed commitment to sustaining peaceful relations:

8.1. The meeting notes that, since 2012, there have been no hostilities between the two States and their relations continue to improve. It takes note, in particular, of the free movement of persons, goods and services, as well as of transhumance, between the two States, in line with the soft border provisions of the Agreement between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan on Border Issues, and the Framework Agreement on the Status of Nationals of the Other State and Related Matters.

8.2. Both Parties renew their commitment to rebuilding their relations.

9. Next meeting

9.1. The next extraordinary meeting of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism will be held in April 2018.

Done in Addis Ababa, this 5th day of March, 2018:

(*Signed*) Honourable General Kuol **Manyang-Juuk**	(*Signed*) General (psc) Ali Mohammed **Salim**
Minister of Defence and Veterans' Affairs	Minister of Defence
Republic of South Sudan	Republic of Sudan
Joint Political and Security Mechanism	Joint Political and Security Mechanism
Co-Chair	Acting Co-Chair

Witnessed by:

(*Signed*) President Abdulsalami A. **Abubakar**

African Union High-level Implementation Panel

Annex II to the letter dated 22 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Joint Security Committee meeting between the Republic of South Sudan and the Republic of the Sudan

Seventh meeting

Tuesday, 27 February 2018

Juba, South Sudan

Outcomes of the meeting

Pursuant to the decisions of the extraordinary session of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism held in Addis Ababa on 4 February 2018 and those of the ordinary session held in Khartoum on 31 October 2017, the Joint Security Committee held its seventh meeting in Juba on 27 February 2018. It was co-chaired by the two chiefs of military intelligence of the Republic of South Sudan and the Republic of the Sudan.

The Joint Security Committee notes the renewed spirit of transparency, seriousness and strong will that prevailed in the meeting in seeking to resolve issues relating to the redeployment of forces from the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone, the reactivation of the ad hoc committee on the 14 Mile Area and the necessary preparations being made for reopening phase 1 of the border crossing corridors in order to enhance and realize the benefits of the strategic mutual interests of the two States.

The Joint Security Committee acknowledges that generally sufficient progress has been made in the redeployment of forces from the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone.

After lengthy discussions involving an exchange of the views and thoughts of both parties about the agenda, the 7th meeting recommended as follows:

(1) The establishment of a joint technical committee to be headed by the Joint Security Committee Co-Chairs, with the participation of the African Union Border Programme Technical Team, to work with UNISFA in verifying the redeployment of the Sudan People's Liberation Army and the Sudan Armed Forces from the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone within 15 days of the next extraordinary meeting of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism;

(2) In order to facilitate the mission of the African Union Border Programme Technical Team, representatives from the Joint Security Committee shall accompany the African Union Border Programme Technical Team on the ground to mark the four border crossing corridors identified in phase 1 by the Joint Technical Border Corridors Committee;

(3) Expedition of the process of determining the exact coordinates for the agreed four border crossing corridors with the African Union Border Programme Technical Team no later than 15 March 2018;

(4) Follow-up visits to the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone, especially the border crossing corridors, by a joint team of senior officers from the Joint Security Committee and UNISFA; and

(5) The parties agreed to establish a direct communications hotline between the chiefs of military intelligence (the Joint Security Committee Co-Chairs) to allow for the timely exchange of information and the tackling of issues pertaining to the

implementation of the Joint Security Committee and Joint Political and Security Mechanism decisions.

The next (eighth) meeting of the Joint Security Committee shall be convened on 27 March 2018 in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum.

Done on Tuesday, 27th day of February, 2018, between

(*Signed*) Lieutenant General (psc) Gamal Eldin Omar **Mohammed** Joint Security Committee Co-Chair Chief of Military Intelligence Authority Sudan Armed Forces	(*Signed*) Major General Chokrac Alith **Kudum** Joint Security Committee Co-Chair Chief of Military Intelligence The Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army